

The 'Twice Dead'

These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;
Jude 1:12 (KJV) 



Recently God has pressed upon me to study the book of Jude. Since it is only one short book you'd think it would go quickly, but I am constantly finding little nuggets of truth that He brings to my attention. One that I'd like to talk about today is the simple phrase 'twice dead'. What does it mean to be 'twice dead', who are these people and how did they get that way?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
Revelation 21:8 (KJV) 

Scripture plainly tells us what the 'second death' is; our souls spending eternity in the fires of Hell. So why does Jude warn us of those who are 'twice dead'? Apparently, although they walk amongst us posing as fellow Christians there is no more chance for these people, for they have already been condemned to the second death. They are the walking dead, spiritual zombies.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
Matthew 3:10 (KJV) 

We are given a hint of who they are by Jude's use of the allegory of plants that don't produce fruit. John the Baptist also used this allegory, as did Christ Himself in the parable of the sower.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
John 3:3-6 (KJV) 

Spiritually speaking, to be twice dead means they must have lived, died, become 'born again' and subsequently died again. This is of course contrary to the unscriptural doctrine of eternal security. Simply stated, the 'twice dead' are those who have lost their salvation forever. We in fact have much scriptural evidence that proves salvation may be given up, particularly this passage:

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God,

and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV) 

This is a passage that makes the eternal security (OSAS) proponents sweat because it clearly describes people who have 'tasted of the Heavenly gift' (the Holy Spirit) and subsequently rejected it. It is fascinating to watch them try and explain it away. Some claim that those described here never actually 'received' the Holy Spirit, but just 'tasted' of it, like God hands out free samples of His precious Holy Spirit like He was free samples of ice cream or something.

Reality check here folks, and painfully obvious to anyone who just wants truth; God is not a fool who can be tricked into giving the Holy Spirit to someone who has not made a genuine decision for Christ. If He could be, He couldn't be trusted to judge anything, let alone our eternities. Knowing that, we can plainly discern that not everyone who leaves the faith was never really a Christian to begin with. You don't get more 'Christian' than having the Holy Spirit.

HOW DID THEY BECOME 'TWICE DEAD'?

It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Luke 15:32 (KJV) 

In the story of the prodigal son we are told that he was dead, yet has become alive again,. But it seems that the 'twice dead' are not able to come to life again. Why not? Because as Jude also tells us they were 'plucked up by the roots'. Who would do such a thing? The gardener, Christ of course! Now let's take another look at what John the Baptist had to say. Some in the garden do not bring forth fruit, others bring forth fruit that is bad. We are told trees that bring forth bad fruit must be hewn down and cast into the fire (Hell).

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:17-19  **(KJV)**

Although the prodigal son was dead and not bearing any fruit, he was not bearing bad fruit (yet) so there was still a chance for him. The same can be surmised for the Laodicean church of Revelation chapter three. Be reminded that the Laodicean church is an allegory for a type of end times Christian.

The Laodicean church is in the most dire circumstances, but like the prodigal son there is still a chance for them. If they were to die in their present state they would surely go to Hell, and if the rapture were to occur they would be left behind. How can I say that with such certainty? Look at the next verse:

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20 (KJV) 

Since we know our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit if Christ is outside their hearts knocking trying to get in the Holy Spirit is not inside them! But the fact that He's still knocking means there's still even at this late hour a chance for them like the prodigal son to come to their senses.

